Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring equipment in a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

a monitor set including at least one of either a subset of the equipment, a review period, or a configuration for the equipment;

a plurality of rules related to the monitor set, wherein the rules include at least one rule usable to predict exhaustion of the equipment;

means for obtaining data related to the monitor set; and

a program for creating one or more analytical reports about the monitor set based on the rules and the data, wherein the one or more analytical ~~report includes~~ reports include a prediction of exhaustion of the equipment, wherein the program includes:

an inference engine having instructions for retrieving the data from a data layer of an inventory retrieval system, determining if a match exists between the data and one or more of the plurality of rules~~, if a match exists,~~ and selectively firing the rule on the data to produce an analysis to create ~~and formatting the analysis into~~ the one or more analytical reports.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one rule usable to predict exhaustion of the equipment includes a projected lifetime of the equipment.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the at least one rule usable to predict exhaustion of the equipment includes a capacity of the equipment.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring equipment in a telecommunications system and predicting when the equipment will be exhausted, the method comprising:

selecting a configuration for the equipment;

defining a review for the selected configuration, the review identifying one or more rules usable to calculate exhaustion of the equipment;

obtaining equipment related data using a separate inventory system;

requesting [[the]] retrieval of the obtained data for the defined review so that the data can be compared to the one or more rules; and

receiving a comparison of the data and the review.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein identifying the one or more rules usable to calculate exhaustion of the equipment includes identifying at least one of a lifetime of the equipment and a capacity of the equipment.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the review further identifies a review interval and/or a notification preference and wherein the data can also be compared to the review interval and/or the notification preference.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the configuration is selected from a list of predetermined possible configurations.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein identifying one or more rules comprises:

selecting a rule from a rule tree according to a rule set definition, the rule comprising an antecedent and a consequent; and

modifying either or both of the antecedent and the consequent of the selected rule.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising receiving the comparison as an analyzed conclusion provided through an email operation.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring equipment in a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

a monitor set including at least one of either a subset of the equipment, a review period, or a configuration for the equipment;

a plurality of rules related to the monitor set, wherein at least one rule enables a prediction of equipment exhaustion;

means for obtaining data related to the monitor set; and

a program for creating one or more analytical reports about the monitor set based on the rules and the data, wherein at least one of the one or more analytical reports details a relationship between demand and capacity for at least a portion of the equipment.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising a graphical user interface for receiving additional rules from a user and for providing the additional rules to the program.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the program comprises an inference engine comprising instructions for retrieving the data from a data layer of an inventory retrieval system, determining if a match exists between the data and one or more of the rules~~, if a match exists,~~ and selectively firing the rule on the data to produce an analysis~~, and formatting the analysis into~~ to create the one or more analytical reports, wherein the one or more analytical ~~report includes~~ reports include a prediction of equipment exhaustion.

13. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the configuration for the equipment is selected from a list of predetermined possible configurations.

14. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the rules are organized in a tree structure.

15. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the rules includes an antecedent and a consequent.

16. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein the configuration for the equipment is selected from a list of predetermined possible configurations.

17. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one rule usable to predict exhaustion of the equipment includes a projected lifetime of the equipment.

18. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one rule usable to predict exhaustion of the equipment includes a capacity of the equipment.

19. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein the rules are organized in a tree structure.

20. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the rules includes an antecedent and a consequent.